

Appl. No. 09/977,721
Amdt. Dated July 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A recreational vehicle having a main room and an expandable room movable relative to said main room to provide additional living space to said main room, a drive mechanism for moving said expandable room between extended and retracted positions, a sealing member positioned between the main room and the expandable room, and a latching mechanism mounted adjacent to a top edge of said expandable room, for latching the expandable room to the main room and moving the relative position of the sealing member and a sealing surface of the recreational vehicle, to enhance the sealing between the expandable room and said main room wherein said latching mechanism includes a latch joined to an actuator by way of a link, said latch configured to receive a bracket when said actuator is depressed and said actuator includes a flat plate extending from an opening and mounted to a plurality of arms in a pivotal connection so that depression of said plate into said opening causes said latch to further engage said bracket.
2. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said link includes a compensator between said actuator and said latch.
3. (Previously Presented) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said latch includes a camming surface whereby said camming surface engages said bracket in a manner further enhancing the sealing between said expandable room and said main room.
4. (Previously Presented) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a vehicle side wall housing said actuator and said latch, wherein said bracket is attached to said expandable room.
5. Cancelled

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6. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said latch extends through an opening located in a sidewall of said vehicle.
7. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 6 wherein a portion of said latch engages a portion of said bracket at a position external to said side wall.
8. (Previously Presented) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein a portion of said latch is housed within a side wall of said vehicle including an opening, a portion of said bracket extending through said opening to engage said latch.
9. (Previously Presented) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 8 wherein said latch is obscured from view by said side wall when viewed from a plane including said side wall.
10. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 3 wherein a portion of said camming surface extends from an opening located in a sidewall of said vehicle.
11. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 3 further including a side wall having an opening, wherein a portion of said latch extends through said opening and said camming surface is located external to said side wall.
12. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said latch includes a member moveable between a first position engaging said bracket and a second position free from said bracket.
13. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 12 wherein said a portion of said latch rotates between said first position and said second position.

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14. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said actuator includes a hose connected to said latch, a pair of cylinders connected to said hose and a fluid disposed therein.
15. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 14 said latch includes a cylinder connected to said hose, said cylinder altering the position of said latch due to pressure variation in said actuator.
16. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said actuator includes a motor.
17. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 16 wherein said actuator includes a second motor.
18. (Previously Presented) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 further including a spring biasing said latch away from said bracket.
19. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 18 wherein said spring includes a plurality of arcuate surfaces engaging a portion of said latch.
20. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 19 wherein said portion of said latch is a camming member.
21. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 20 wherein said latch engages a handle for altering the engagement between said camming member and said arcuate surfaces of said spring.
22. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said latch includes a flexible seal for sealing said latch against said bracket.

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23. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 1 further including an angular member having a camming surface and a room biasing member, said camming surface engaging an edge channel and said room biasing member altering the position of the expandable room so that said angular member engages said edge channel.
24. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 23 wherein said room biasing member is an angular member attached to the bottom of the expandable room.
25. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 23 wherein said room biasing member is a roller assembly for engaging a ramp when biasing the expandable room.
26. (Withdrawn) The recreational vehicle as set forth in claim 25 wherein said angular member is a rain dam.
27. (Currently Amended) A latching mechanism for latching an expandable room to a side wall of a vehicle including a drive mechanism for moving a portion of the expandable room between an expanded position and a retracted position, said latching mechanism sealing said expandable room against said side wall and including:

a bracket;

a latch configured to engage said bracket and including a means for drawing said expandable room to said side wall of the vehicle in order to increase the effectiveness of the seal; and

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wherein said expandable room includes an extension to be inserted into an opening in said side wall as said expandable room moves into the retracted position, said extension engaging said latch.

28. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said latching mechanism is located opposite said drive mechanism.

29. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 further including an actuator coupled to said latch in a manner allowing said actuator to alter the position of said latch as said latch engages said bracket.

30. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 29 wherein said actuator includes a plurality of arms joined in a scissors configuration.

31. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 30 wherein said actuator includes a fluid, a plurality of cylinders, and a hose connected to said latch.

32. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 31 further including a cylinder connected to said latch and moving said latch into position to between secure said expandable room to said side wall.

33. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said latch is disposed within the sidewall and said bracket is attached to said expandable room.

34. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 28 wherein said latch is obscured when the sidewall is viewed from the side.

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35. **(Currently Amended)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said latch is obscured from view when ~~the~~ said expandable room is in said retracted position.
36. **(Previously Presented)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said means for drawing includes a camming surface and an opening for receiving said bracket.
37. **(Previously Presented)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 36 further including an actuator linked to said latch and moving said latch such that said camming surface is moved into position over said bracket as the distance separating the expandable room and the side wall decreases.
38. **(Previously Presented)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 37 wherein said expandable room contacts said actuator as said expandable room moves toward said side wall, said link translating contact between said expandable room and said actuator into movement of said camming surface.
39. **(Withdrawn)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said means for drawing comprises a projection.
40. **(Withdrawn)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 39 wherein said projection progressively engages said bracket as the distance separating said side wall and said expandable room decreases.
41. **(Withdrawn)** The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 40 wherein said latch includes an axis of rotation about which said latch rotates as said projection contacts said bracket and withdraws said expandable room to said side wall.

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42. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 41 wherein said projection includes an arcuate surface for engaging said bracket.

43. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 41 wherein said latch further includes a camming member engaging a spring including a plurality of arcuate surfaces, said camming member limiting the rotation of said latch once said expandable room is positioned adjacent said side wall.

44. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 43 further including a release lever for altering the engagement between said camming member and said spring thereby separating said bracket and said latch.

45. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 27 wherein said latch engages said bracket in a manner allowing said latch to decrease the distance separating said side wall and a portion of said expandable room.

46. (Previously Presented) A latching mechanism for securing an expandable room moveable between an extended position and a retracted position by a drive mechanism, to the side wall of a recreational vehicle wherein the movement of said expandable room into the retracted position causes said latch mechanism to assist said drive mechanism in withdrawing a portion of said expandable room.

47. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 46 wherein said portion of said expandable room is located opposite said drive mechanism.

48. (Withdrawn) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 46 further including a latch extending from said side wall to engage a portion of said expandable room prior to contact between said expandable room and said side wall.

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49. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 47 wherein said latch is positioned within said side wall at a position removed from said drive mechanism.

50. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 47 wherein said expandable room includes an extension to be inserted into an opening in said side wall as said expandable room moves into the retracted position, said extension engaging said latch.

51. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 50 wherein said extension comprises a portion of a bracket.

52. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 47 wherein said drive mechanism is located proximate the bottom of said expandable room and said latch mechanism is located proximate the top of said expandable room.

53. (Previously Presented) The latching mechanism as set forth in claim 52 wherein said latching mechanism retains said expandable room in the retracted position until released.

54. (Previously Presented) A recreational vehicle including a latching mechanism for securing an expandable room extending through an opening to a side wall of the vehicle, said latching mechanism retaining the expandable room in the retracted position and withdrawing a portion of the expandable room into the retracted position as said expandable room moves in the direction of said side wall.